

# The Menzies Project—A Self-sustaining, Citizen-based Monitoring Program

*James G. Norris and Judy D'Amore*

*Marine Resources Consultants*

## Abstract

The Menzies Project ([www.menziesproject.org](http://www.menziesproject.org)) is a partnership between the Port Townsend Marine Science Center and local research scientists. Its overall goal is to create a model for a scientifically sound citizen-based monitoring program supported by a sustainable funding source—the general public is invited for a fee to participate in collecting the data. It is named in honor of Archibald Menzies, naturalist onboard Vancouver's 1792 expedition to the Pacific Northwest. The research goal of the Menzies Project is to gather data on the marine environment that helps to fill gaps identified by other research scientists and government officials. During the summer of 2002 we conducted 3-½-hour research cruises in Port Townsend Bay (two per day; four days per week) and 6-hour research cruises to Protection Island and Sequim Bay (one per day; two days per week). Monthly cruises were conducted during the remainder of the year with local 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The following data were collected: physical oceanographic conditions (temperature, salinity, pH, dissolved oxygen, photosynthetically available radiation), plankton settled volumes and taxa present, underwater videographic observations, harbor seal counts, and shellfish counts and length frequencies (spot prawns and Dungeness crab).